

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method by which a managing computer manages applications
2 residing on a managed computer, the method comprising the steps of:
3 (a) forwarding an agent from the managing computer to the managed
4 computer; and,
5 (b) running the agent on the managed computer, the agent
6 performing the following substeps:
7 (b.1) maintaining specified applications residing on the
8 managed computer, and
9 (b.2) performing requests made by the managing computer.
- 1 2. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
2 performs the following substep:
3 (b.3) detecting lost network connections.
- 1 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
2 performs the following substep:
3 (b.3) monitoring network connection speed between the managed
4 computer and the managing computer to determine a best time to transfer
5 data from the managing computer to the managed computer.
- 1 4. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
2 performs the following substep:

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4 (b.3) monitoring integrity of specified applications within the
managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed.

1 5. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
2 performs the following substep:
3 (b.3) monitoring communications from the managed computer to
4 determine when the managed computer desires the agent to take a
5 requested action.

1 6. A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3) wherein the
2 requested action is to uninstall an application.

1 7. A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3) wherein the
2 requested action is to stop an application.

1 8. A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3) wherein the
2 requested action is to upgrade an application.

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2 9. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
performs the following substeps:
3 (b.3) monitoring network connection speed between the managed
4 computer and the managing computer; and,
5 (b.4) stopping all network applications on the managed computer
6 when the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

*Sub 1
all*

10. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
2 performs the following substeps:

- 3 (b.3) downloading a specified application from the managing
4 computer to the managed computer; and,
5 (b.4) installing the specified application.

11. An agent running on a managed computer managed by a
2 managing computer, the agent comprising:

- 3 an integrity sensor that monitors integrity of specified applications
4 within the managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed;
5 an action sensor that monitors communications from the managed
6 computer to determine when the managed computer desires the agent to
7 take a requested action; and,
8 a main engine that maintains the specified applications and performs
9 the requested action.

12. An agent as in claim 11 additionally comprising:

- 2 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
3 between the managed computer and the managing computer to determine a
4 best time to transfer data from the managing computer to the managed
5 computer.

13. An agent as in claim 11 wherein the requested action is to
2 uninstall an application.

1 14. An agent as in claim 11 wherein the requested action is to stop an
2 application.

1 15. An agent as in claim 11 wherein the requested action is to
2 upgrade an application.

1 16. An agent as in claim 10 additionally comprising:
2 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
3 between the managed computer and the managing computer, wherein the
4 main engine stops all network applications on the managed computer when
5 the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

1 17. Storage media that store programming code which when run
2 implements an agent running on a managed computer managed by a
3 managing computer, the agent comprising:
4 an integrity sensor that monitors integrity of specified applications
5 within the managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed;
6 an action sensor that monitors communications from the managed
7 computer to determine when the managed computer desires the agent to
8 take a requested action; and,
9 a main engine that maintains the specified applications and performs
10 the requested action.

1 18. Storage media as in claim 17 wherein the agent additionally
2 comprises:

3 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
4 between the managed computer and the managing computer to determine a
5 best time to transfer data from the managing computer to the managed
6 computer.

1 19. Storage media as in claim 17 wherein the requested action is one of
2 the following:

3 an instruction to uninstall an application;
4 an instruction to stop an application; and,
5 an instruction to upgrade an application.

1 20. Storage media as in claim 17 wherein the agent additionally
2 comprises:
3 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
4 between the managed computer and the managing computer, wherein the
5 main engine stops all network applications on the managed computer when
6 the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

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